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Chicago probe reveals covert police network

By RICHARD ASHBY

CHICAGO, April 16 — Evidence is emerging here of links between the Chicago Police Dept. and the White House police-state apparatus revealed by the Watergate case.

A number of separate revelations, concerning the Chicago Police Dept., the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and White House agents, form the outlines of a nationwide, covert network of intelligence agencies and local police departments, with power centralized in Washington.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month released testimony by former CIA director Richard M. Helms, in which he revealed that the CIA gave training to Chicago Police Dept. personnel. This violates the CIA's Congressional mandate, which forbids domestic activities. Police Supt. James Rochford refused to comment on the charges at a police board meeting March 14.

FBI disruptions

Federal district court Judge Sam Perry earlier this month ordered the FBI to turn over documents on its role in the Dec. 4, 1968 raid by Chicago police in which Black Panther Party members Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were slain. The order was

issued during a hearing on a \$3.8 million damage suit filed by relatives of Hampton and Clark against former State Attorney Edward Hanrahan and 17 others.

The documents are likely to indicate involvement of the Chicago Police Dept. in the FBI's COINTELPRO operation (for Counter Intelligence Programs) which lasted from May, 1968 to April, 1971. The secret FBI operation was initiated "to expose, disrupt and otherwise neutralize" the activities of radical political groups. In addition, extensive intelligence was gathered on Black leaders, including U.S. Rep. Ralph Metcalfe (D-Ill), from Chicago's South Side.

Existence of the COINTELPRO operation was revealed in secret FBI memoranda made public last month as a result of a suit filed by a newsman under the Freedom of Information Act.

House hearings

A subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee is planning to hold hearings on the FBI project at the request of Rep. Metcalfe. Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif), chairman of the subcommittee, has included Chicago among the cities where the FBI will be investigated.

A spokesman for Rep. Metcalfe, Jeffery Roberts, told the Daily World that any connection between the COINTELPRO activities and the Chicago Police Dept. would be revealed in the House subcommittee hearings. "We know that they all generally cooperate," Roberts commented.

Chicago police have no love for Rep. Metcalfe, who has been a prime mover in a campaign against police brutality and corruption here. He was a founder of the Concerned Citizens for Police Reform, which publicized police brutality, issued recommendations for reform, and opposed the recent appointment of Rochford as police chief.

Rep. Metcalfe was also on the White House "enemies" list. Roberts said there was no way of knowing at this point if Metcalfe's tax return was one of those checked by a secret White House task force set up inside the Internal Revenue Service. Sen. Lowell

Weicker (D-Conn), a member of the Senate Watergate Committee, documented the existence of the secret unit earlier this month.

Sen. Weicker produced evidence that the IRS had been used repeatedly to harass political opponents of the Nixon Administration.

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